3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

10

JETS COMICS

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ひなたが同じ高校の一年生として入学。
零は高校三年生となり、
学校も将棋の戦いも充実した生活を送っていたが——
その穏やかな日々に波乱が起こる。
川本家に現れた歓迎されぬ来訪者とは…？
少年の成長を実感する前進の第10巻。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく
優しい物語です。

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

message

Recent Photo of the Author's cat

羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

YAA! It's me, Bun-chan!
I've really been into curling up recently!
When I'm in this shape, I slip around on ice!
When Mama sees me, she says 'Bun-chan has turned into a strange plant!'
and takes lots of pictures, but I leave her be.
Mama has a bit of a distant attitude towards sports.
And I think it is important for 'people to realize things on their own'!

March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン ⑩ 羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

3月のライオン
⑩
羽海野チカ
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3月のライオン

March comes in like a lio

Chica Umino

羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学九段

10

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この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

Chapter. 95

New Days

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

My 3rd year of high school, the end of June.

— The Meijin Championship ended,

the rainy season came to a close,

and now summer is almost here.

I WANTED TO HAVE A MEMORY OF 'NOT RUNNING AWAY'

I THINK.

so I only have 9 months left in my life as a student.

I decided I would focus purely on shogi rather than go to college,

Once I graduate high school,

— This is the third year I've come back to this thing called 'school' for that [redacted]

I'm still alone as ever,

but the reason I can sit here absentmindedly

feeling completely different from before

is because I think

I've made a little progress...

—One new change

I could talk about that happened over those days

with everything saying pretty much the same...

SFX: NIPAAAAHH (SMILE) FURI FURI (WAVING)

にぱぁーっっっ

is the fact that

I'm able to see Hina in the school now.

SFX PYOO

Rei-chan!

ぴょー

Science Lab

3 months have already passed since she entered

Komahashi High School.

—After Hina overcame those angry waves of the entrance exams,

SFX: NIKOOO (GRIN)

We both knitted them, actually.

Aren't they cute?

They're presents for the first 4 people to give the club a try.

OOOHHH! THAT LOOKS GOOD!!

—— HUH? BUT THESE PIECES. .

ARE THESE.. HAND-KNIT?

We made a poster for the Shogi Club!

Look!

All welcome! SHOGI CLUB

It's fun!

The first 4 to arrive

Isn't it cute ?!

SFX: PARAAA

N-

NEAT...

They're both useful and pretty, don't you think?

Look!

They actually become tissue cases——!

It's okay!! Even if they rip the symbols off, they're drawn underneath!

UH. SO THAT'S OKAY BECAUSE OF THE ILLUSTRATION UNDERNEATH?

UM, BUT I'M KINDA AFRAID THAT THEY MIGHT BE SO CUTE SOMEBODY MIGHT STEAL THEM.

TH-THEY LOOK GREAT

SFX: AGRTH

SFX. FUHAAH

AH, OK

Aaand stamped.

THANK YOU VERY MUUCH !!

Okay, all done delivering the goods from the hand-made club.

I'm gonna need a seal on here.

FUHAAAH

Yeah.

Before I knew it

Her name is Tsugumi-chan.

Apparently she's the daughter of a small handicraft salesman in Nippori.

Hina-chan had made a great friend!

Ahahah! A cooool!

Looks nice!

But you'll need to knit a back too

I'm done !!

I'm gonna make it a cusion cover!!

Great idea!

How 'bout we go buy some beads from Asakusa-bashi?

Ookay! ☆ Mission complete !!

TOTATAAHH

TSUGUMIII

— Suddenly I realized

that they're spending break times, lunch time, club activities,

and walks home together.

They seem pretty much on the same wavelength. No matter how much they talk, they always seem like they have more to say.

nyahaaa

Not yeeeeet! ☆

Are you feel'n the sound ok!?

Fair-skinned, placid, girl with pretty features.

And I guess one thing they have in common is they both have families downtown that run shops.

ZYOOOOOOOOZ

Even though we're in the same school now...

it actually feels like we see each other less than we used to.

Thanks to that, she doesn't have to rely on me at all.

They also both joined the 'Hand-Made Club' and seem to be having lots of fun.

When I think back to how she was last year, my chest feels like it's being torn apart.

— But that's okay. I don't mind.

I'm...

As long as she's able to do that...

As long as Hina-chan is able to spend every day with a smile on her face...

HEY, KIRIYAMA.

WE'RE GONNA GET STARTED SOON.

IT'S TIME

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

...

AND I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF HANDING THAT OVER TO A YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU!!

I WILL LEAD THE PACK!!

IN THIS COMPANY CREW BATTLE,

EH, MR. VICE PRINCIPAL?

Hohoh. Well, well, well,

Branding me as a youngster——? I haven't heard that one before.

—In that case, I hope you show me.

SFX:
PASHIH
PASHIH
PACHIH
PASHIH

KIRIYAMA-SENSEI!! WHEN THERE'S AN OU-HEADED VANGUARD FU, SHOULD I PULL MY HISHA TO THE 1ST RANK ?!

Is accelerated Ishida-style, in order to avoid getting smothered,

is rising kin or static hisha anaguma the better choice?!

The only thing you can do is checkmate the opponent, right?!

Sensei!! Please teach me what to do next when I'm in brinkmate !!

THE Last Minute Gamming

MASTER, THE COMPANY CREW BATTLE IS THIS SUNDAY!!

AWAWA

I cannot let that Tsukikou next to me keep smirking at me!!

I HAVE TO MAKE IT UP TO THE A-CLASS LEAGUE THIS YEAR!!

SENSEI !!

U-UM, FIRST, CALM DOWN, EVERY-ONE.

Sensei !!

— Er, actually, excuse me...

If I'm really being honest, I thought Hina chan would say something like

'Maybe I'll join the shogi club'...

Sensei!!

Sensei!

SENSEI!!

But I'm sure this is all right — Er, well,

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST COMPLETELY LEAVE HINA-CHAN ALONE NOW!!

I mean...!! This isn't so much a 'Shogi Club' as it is a total *outrage, isn't it?!

*(A place where people are taught by a pro shogi player for free)

— By the way, as for those 'Shogi Club invitation posters' the Hand-Craft Club made, the tissue cases were snapped up in an instant by bastards pretending to want to try the club out just 'cause they wanted things hand made by cute girls.

Chapter 95 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU
1

WHAT IS A CREW BATTLE IN SHOGI?!

Shogi is an individual sport, but among amateurs there also exists a crew battles where players team up. I would have to say that the largest of these is the Inter-Company Crew Championships held twice a year. Commonly known as Company Crew Battle. These are tournaments in people from the same companies or organizations form five-man teams and compete against each other. It's a traditional tournament and this year (It's currently November of 2014) it has been held 106 times. A-class has always been the best, but now they have a rank called the S-class. A mere 8 teams are entered into this exclusive class and it is made up mostly of well known amateur heavy-hitters.

Besides that there are classed A, B... down to F. They each have 64 team and 128 team tournaments, so that's quite a staggering number of people in total. They take place in massive locations like the Japan Martial Arts Stadium, the Ayase Martial Arts Stadium, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. The winner of each class receives a beautiful shield. By the way, and I can hardly believe this, the publishers of this manga, Hakusensha, have been champions multiple times. According to Umino-san's editor, T-Shi 'I'm the reason they won.' Though that might be a fabrication. They're apparently very proud of the shields they won. It's set at the entrance of the editorial department as if to say 'What do you think of that?'

As for other tournaments, there are the Inter-Workforce Championships, also known as the Workforce Crew Battle. Unlike the Company Crew Battle, there is no restriction on being from the same organization. No matter what sort of mish-mash of companies it is, you're allowed to form a team as long as you have seven people. Because of that rule, there may be strong players that join teams like mercenaries. It's a very unique crew battle overflowing with personality.

Of course, pro players are not in these tournaments (Though they're often asked to join wearing a mask). One would think that if they did participate, they would need to be paid some amount of contractual money.... but if they lost somehow, then they would be embarrassed and such.

Crew battles for those in college age and below are in full bloom. Tournaments are big enough that there can be an individuals section and a crews section. One thing I think is pretty cute is the crew battles of 3-man elementary school teams held separately. Also there is the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Cup, commonly known as the Culture-Science Cup. There are preliminaries split into local governments all over the country and the winners of that enter the main tournaments to determine the best elementary schools of the East and the West. I'm sure those that participate are praised by the principals at school assemblies and the trophies decorate the principal's office.

Something unique to crew battles is even if you're doing badly, you don't want to resign quickly because it lowers the morale of the other players. Often these matches come down to the last game and all members of both teams watch with bated breath as the final outcome is determined.

By the way, I've never participated in a crew battle. I've been playing shogi for nearly 40 years and I've never done it even once. As I write this I've realized something quite astounding. Not only in shogi, I've never done a crew battle in any event at all... That's odd. Extremely odd. Because of that I have a secret adoration of team battles. I'd really think it would be nice to have an experience where I lose, but the team wins.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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